

Reviews.

HYSTERIA AND BRAIN-TUMOR. By Mary Putnam Jacobi, M.D. pp. 213. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1888.

In this volume the author presents seven essays which have previously appeared separately in numerous publications or have been read at society meetings.

These essays are entitled: Some Considerations of Hysteria; Tumors of the Brain; Note on the Special Liability to Loss of Nouns in Aphasia; Case of Nocturnal Rotary Spasm; The Prophylaxis of Insanity; Antagonism between Medicines and between Remedies and Diseases; and Hysterical Locomotor Ataxia.

Of these, the first two deserve more than a passing notice. The author's depth of thought and closeness of observation are nowhere made more apparent than in the opening essay on Hysteria. Many original and plausible theories are advanced and numerous cases are cited to bear out the author's views.

After a few remarks on the conditions fundamental to hysteria, the writer goes on to discuss the origin of the sensory and motor symptoms. The sensory symptoms—anæsthesia and pain—are attributed respectively to privation of the blood supply of the sensory centres, and to excessive centripetal irritations which are distributed throughout all the receiving stations of the cerebro-spinal axis. The motor symptoms—paralysis and convulsion—are attributed respectively to depression, or inhibition of the function of the cortical motor centres in liberating energy in motor tracts in response to intracerebral stimulus, and to a diminished control over the subcortical motor centres by the cortical centres which normally inhibit them in part. The causes which lead to these abnormal conditions are fully discussed and explained, and the various forms of pain, paralysis and convulsions are entered into with a minuteness characteristic of the author. The psychical phenomena of hysteria are carefully studied, and the difference between hysterical neuroses

and neuroses originating in medullary spinal centres is made apparent. The latter part of the essay is devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of hysteria. In regard to the latter, electricity, massage, gymnastics, the health lift, together with the usual medicinal remedies, are recommended. The removal of the ovaries for intractable cases of hysteria is advised in two classes of cases. One, where the ovaries are diseased; the other, where the ovaries are normal, but in which normal menstruation causes intolerable irritation.

It cannot be denied that the removal of diseased ovaries is often beneficial in the treatment of hysteria, but where the ovaries are normal even our most ardent ovariomists would be inclined to respect them. The author admits that the operation is not often immediately successful, either because menstruation persists, or because the nervous phenomena persist, and claims that the operation can only be considered unsuccessful after the lapse of two years.

The article on Brain Tumor, though not containing as much original thought, is of as great, if not of greater, importance than the preceding essay. It is almost a complete analysis of the subject. The symptoms are exhaustively considered in relation to the location of the lesions, and the results are carefully tabulated, so that a complete understanding of the subject may be obtained almost at a glance.

The remaining essays are treated with that careful consideration characteristic of the author.

As a whole, the work is a valuable addition to neurological science.